



Connecticut Auto Recyclers Association  
PO Box 71  
Tolland, CT 06084

House Transportation Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 2300  
Hartford, CT 06106

March 6, 2013

Dear Transportation Committee Members,

On behalf of the Connecticut Automotive Recyclers Association, I would like to express concerns with Senate Bill 1040 relating to the sale and installation of counterfeit and substandard airbags. The problem of counterfeit airbags is serious and professional automotive recyclers have long cautioned the automotive repair industry and consumers about the dangers of using counterfeit airbags.

However as currently written, we strongly oppose the use of the word "Substandard" in SB 1040. "Substandard" airbag is a subjective term and there is no widely-accepted definition of what constitutes a "substandard" airbag. The inclusion of this language in SB 1040 is simply unnecessary and would give those who seek only to increase their market share an unfair advantage in setting the standard – an advantage they will likely use to disparage the use of recycled, original equipment, non-deployed airbags that have met specific industry standards and that our businesses provide to consumers as an effective and economic repair option. SB 1040 as currently written could result in consumers electing to forego the installation of an airbag in the repair process due to economic limitations, which could result in unsafe vehicles being returned to Connecticut's roads and highways.

We are requesting a revision to SB1040 to remove the word "Substandard" in order to not only protect the automotive recycling industry in Connecticut but also to protect the interests and repair options available to of automotive consumer.

The Connecticut Automotive Recyclers Association, ([www.ctautorecyclers.com](http://www.ctautorecyclers.com)) is an organization formed by a group of licensed, professional automotive recyclers dedicated to the efficient removal and reuse of automotive parts, and the safe disposal of inoperable motor vehicles in the state of Connecticut. We consist of approximately 40 direct member companies and our automotive recycling businesses employ hundreds of people in our state. We work in alliance with the national Automotive Recyclers Association ([www.a-r-a.org](http://www.a-r-a.org)) to increase public awareness of the industry's role in conserving the future through automotive recycling and to foster awareness of the industry's value as a high quality, low cost alternative for the automotive consumer. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Taia M. Cesana

President, Connecticut Automotive Recyclers Association